GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2315
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
INSTALLATION OF HAND-PUMPS/TUBE-WELLS IN VILLAGES
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether sample check of records conducted by the C&AG in its Report No. 3 of2002 (Civil) on page 114 in 13 States has revealed that 85301 hand pumps, 80046 tube wells, 752 piped water schemes, 687 power pumps, 1268 mini-water schemes and 35 Rural Water Supply Scheme involving a total investment of Rs.369.20 crore were neither functioning nor operational;

(b) whether out of the 37,57,862 hand pumps installed, 85854 were non-functional as on March, 2001;

(c) whether the causes of such large number of water providing instruments going astray been enquired into and the steps taken to activate them for the proper supply of drinking water to the people; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

(a) to (d): Para 7 of Chapter III of the Report No. 3 of CAG for the year 2002 (for the year ended March, 2001) has inter-alia observed that 3,85,854 of the 37,57,862 hand pumps installed were non-functional as of March, 2001. Report has further observed that sample check of records in 13 States also revealed that 85,301 hand pumps, 80,046 tubewells, 752 piped water supply schemes, 687 power pumps, 1,268 mini water schemes and 35 RWSS involving a total investment of Rs.369.20 crore were not functioning at allor were non-operational on account of various reasons such as drying up of sources, collapse of assemblies, lowering of water table, filling up of borewells, blocks in pipes, failure of pumping machinery and distribution system, poor maintenance by local bodies and non-adoption of scientific technology for identification of sources, etc..

Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities are implemented by the States from their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programmes rests with the State Governments.

Most of the observations contained in the CAG Report are State specific and therefore, action thereon is to be taken by the respective State Governments. State Governments have already been requested to furnish their comments on the observation pertaining to them.